

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/025,895	02/18/98	WAGNER	W 758.748-US <i>Og</i>
		PM92/0204	EXAMINER NICHOLSON, E
			ART UNIT 3629 PAPER NUMBER //
		DATE MAILED: 02/04/00	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/025,895	WAGNER, WAYNE M.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Eric K Nicholson	3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 1999.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. received.
2. received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) _____ .
3. received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 14) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 17) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
- 15) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 18) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 16) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4,5,6,8 . 19) Other: _____ .

Art Unit: 3629

Claims 17-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 10.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 5, "form" should be "from". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 7 it is unclear as worded what is meant by "double saddle".

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

Art Unit: 3629

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. patent 4,143,844 to Van Meter or U.S. patent 4,930,732 to Hardtke or to Canadian patent 656,476. Van Meter illustrates U-bolt 28, saddle 22 and shim 36. Hardtke illustrates U-bolt 8, saddle 3 and shim 9. Canadian patent '476 illustrates U-bolt 28, saddle 20 and shim 50.

Claims 1-5,7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by German patent 1,113,615. The German patent illustrates U-bolt 16, saddle 21, first shim 27 and second shim 11.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be

Art Unit: 3629

patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,209,155 to Florian. Florian discloses the claimed invention with U-bolt 30, saddle 32 and shim 14 except for the particular materials thereof. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the bolt and saddle with zinc plating and further to make the shim of aluminized steel as, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art (in this case exhaust systems) to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Claims 9-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3629

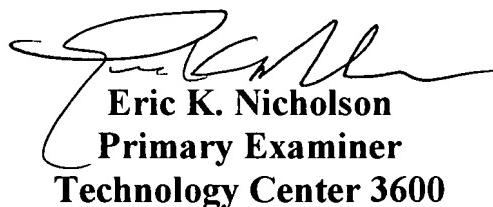
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829 . The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from to 7:30-6:00 .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne, can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for Technical Center 3600 is (703) 305-3597.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

ekn
02/01/00



Eric K. Nicholson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600